

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 003858

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

U.S. to inspect ports worldwide - Sabah
U.S. inspectors for Turkish harbors - Hurriyet
Powell: Turkey's future bright - Milliyet
Powell: U.S. supports Turkey's future in EU - Turkiye
Turkey could not prevent human trafficking - Sabah
U.S. human trafficking report like a threat - Aksam
Iranian fundamentalists on 'student hunt' - Sabah
U.S. wants to move NATO HQ to Warsaw - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

U.S. troops hunt for Iraqi guerrillas - Radikal
U.S. troops fire at people in Mosul - Yeni Safak
Rumsfeld, the "angry hawk," threatens to move NATO HQ from Brussels - Zaman
Israel to continue assassinations to crush Hamas - Zaman
Israel declares full-scale war on Palestinian groups - Yeni Safak
End nearing for Road Map - Radikal
Electric shock for the Uzan family - Radikal
Turkey in worst category in Human Trafficking Report - Cumhuriyet
Tehran shaken by protests - Cumhuriyet

FINANCIAL JOURNALS

Japan Tobacco Int. to bid for Turkey's tobacco monopoly - Dunya
Government seizes Uzans' privileges - Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

Human trafficking report: The annual U.S. report on human trafficking has placed Turkey in 'Tier Three,' the lowest category, blaming the GOT for lacking the minimum requirements for fighting human smuggling and sexual slavery. If Ankara does not move to solve the problem before October, economic sanctions might be imposed on Turkey. Dailies regard the issue as a new source of tension between the U.S. and Turkey, and since sanctions would also apply to IMF and WB credits and U.S. military loans, some even see the report as a new U.S. attempt to punish Turkey.

U.S. Consulate Istanbul moves to new building: The new U.S. Consulate General building in Istanbul was opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by a large number of guests. Secretary Powell said in his message for the opening that despite some difficulties, Americans and Turks have turned to the future. Powell expressed support for Turkey's EU drive in his message.

U.S. 'inspectors' to Turkish ports: Dailies write that the U.S. Administration is planning to send inspectors to the ports of a number of Muslim countries, including Turkey, to detect chemical, biological or nuclear material. Inspectors will use radiation detectors and x-ray imaging equipment to search high-risk cargo at the ports before they are sent to the U.S.

NATO moves air operation center to Izmir: Despite objections by Greece, NATO has decided to establish its air operation command center in Izmir. The command will oversee NATO's southern air defense. NATO is also planning to establish three new training centers in Konya and Ankara by 2004. Reports note that the move came at a time when the U.S. is planning to close Incirlik air base.

Government seizes Uzan Group's energy plants: The Energy Ministry has annulled contracts with the Uzan Group's electricity companies and seized the plants owned by the group for 'ongoing violation of contract provisions.' The government took over ten dams and power plants run by the Uzan family. Reports note that the Uzans have lost two of their most profitable businesses, and expect similar trouble in the sale of state-owned petrochemical giant Petkim, for which the Uzan family entered the highest bid in a privatization tender last Friday.

Azerbaijan uneasy about Ankara's meeting with Armenians: Azerbaijan is upset about reports of secret meetings between Turkish diplomats and Yerevan and the Armenian diaspora in the U.S., according to "Hurriyet." The Azerbaijani Ambassador to Ankara blamed the Armenian lobby for pursuing the dream of a 'Greater Armenia,' and stressed that mistakes by Ankara could hurt Turkey's positive image in Azerbaijan.

EDITORIAL OPINION

- a) Middle East
- b) Annual Trafficking in Persons Report

"The Roadmap Shatters"

Ali Sirmen observed in social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (6/13): "Only a week later, the roadmap has been completely shattered. It comes as no surprise, since the roadmap itself was doomed to fail because of fundamental uncertainties on both sides. President Bush's priority in the Middle East is the fight against terrorism, yet he ignores the fact that Israel's occupation itself is a kind of terror. The roadmap also fails to comprehend the fact that Abbas is totally incapable of taking action against Hamas unless Israel takes some serious steps first. . Sharon's power stems from his acts of retaliation, which only serve the cause of war, not peace. Sharon's policy is making Hamas even stronger than before. . It remains a far-fetched idea to produce peace in the Middle East, as the implementation of the roadmap and the foundation of a Palestinian state by 2005 seem very unlikely."

"US threatens Turkey with economic sanctions"

Zeynep Gurcanli evaluated the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report in the tabloid Star (6/13): "Quite unexpectedly, Turkey is facing another critical development in its relations with the US. The US is on the verge of imposing economic sanctions against Turkey, and it has nothing to do with the rejection of the troop deployment decree by the Turkish parliament during the Iraq crisis. . According to US law, unless Turkey takes some concrete steps to counter human trafficking within 90 days, sanctions will be implemented automatically. . If Ankara does not take the proper steps in a timely fashion, there is one more way for salvation: President Bush could intervene to stop the sanctions being imposed. This would have to be justified on the grounds of US national interests. On this issue, the 'decree crisis' could come back to the agenda whether we like it or not. President Bush is in a mood to 'punish' or at least 'pressure' Turkey because of the failure on troop deployments. In the current atmosphere, it seems very unlikely that he would stop the sanctions from being implemented."

PEARSON